



NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY
AMENDMENT
House Bill 97

AMENDMENT NO. _____
(to be filled in by
Principal Clerk)

H97-ALM-9 [v.6]

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Amends Title [NO]
First Edition

Date _____, 2015

Representative Harrison

1 moves to amend the House ANER Special Provisions Report on pages 49-50 by inserting
2 between those pages a new special provision to read as follows:

3 **"COMMERCE & DENR STUDY COASTAL RESTORATION AS AN ECONOMIC**
4 **DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY**

5 **SECTION #.(a)** The Department of Commerce shall study how coastal restoration,
6 including wetland restoration, oyster bed restoration, living shorelines, and stormwater retrofit
7 efforts, contribute to the coastal economy and, if and how, coastal restoration is consistent with
8 State, regional, and rural economic development policies. The Department shall consult with
9 other State agencies and private organizations in conducting this study. The Department shall
10 report its findings, including any proposed revisions and implementations of these policies, to
11 the Environmental Review Commission by March 1, 2016.

12 **SECTION #.(b)** The Departments of Commerce and Environment and Natural
13 Resources shall work with the United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources
14 Conservation Service, as well as for-profit and nonprofit organizations, to develop
15 recommendations to identify and fully capitalize on the conservation programs funded through
16 the federal Farm Bill, including the potential to help pay for oyster restoration, wildlife
17 enhancement, and wetland restoration with federal dollars. The Departments shall also
18 determine how the State of North Carolina compares to other states in accessing federal
19 restoration funding. The Departments shall report their findings and recommendations to the
20 Environmental Review Commission by March 1, 2016.

21 **SECTION #.(c)** The Department of Environment and Natural Resources shall
22 identify regulatory reform opportunities for the construction of voluntary natural resource
23 restoration and enhancement projects and shall develop proposals that reduce the cost of and
24 approval time for projects that restore oysters, wetlands, coastal shorelines, and other natural
25 resources. The Department shall consider all of the following: (i) opportunities to streamline
26 the permitting of voluntary natural resource restoration and enhancement projects; (ii)
27 opportunities to reduce permitting fees for voluntary natural resource restoration and
28 enhancement projects; (iii) providing for flexibility in applying environmental standards to
29 restoration and enhancement projects with long-term environmental and natural resource
30 benefits; (iv) allowing de minimis environmental impacts during construction of restoration or
31 enhancement projects in the interest of long-term environmental and natural resource benefits,
32 consistent with State and federal law; and (v) opportunities to focus existing Department



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- 1 resources on restoration and enhancement of natural resources. The Department shall submit its
2 findings and recommendations to the Environmental Review Commission by March 1, 2016."
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SIGNED _____
Amendment Sponsor

SIGNED _____
Committee Chair if Senate Committee Amendment

ADOPTED _____ FAILED _____ TABLED _____